



Gentle hands, caring hearts, enriching lives.

February 26, 2006

Leon Drolet, Chair
N0797 House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Fax: 517-373-5974

Re: Senate Bills 1026-1030
House Bills 5744-5745

Dear Representative Drolet,

This week the House Committee on Government Operations is considering Senate Bills 1026-1030 and House Bills 5744-5745 and we need your support. These bills amend the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act, Public Health Code, Mental Health Code, Administrative Procedures Act and Social Welfare Act. The enactment of these statutory amendments is essential to us and 5,000 other licensees statewide.

We operate Rosewood AFC of DeWitt, an adult foster care home for 12 seniors. We have the distinction of having won the Governor's Quality Care Award in 2003 and we have a compassionate, caring and very qualified staff of direct caregivers. Last summer, the Department of Human Services and Community Health proposed extensive changes to our licensing rules. We strongly oppose many of these proposed changes. We have voiced our concerns and our issues have not been satisfactorily addressed by the respective state agencies.

Without this legislation, our limited resources will be wrongfully diverted away from directly caring for our residents. We will have to shift our resources towards burdensome administrative tasks because our staff is not organized by a labor union. We think this is unreasonable. We feel that our state licensing rules should be neutral as to union status. State licensing rules should not favor or punish licensees based on the union status of its workers.

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Be assured that these bills are not intended to negate workers' rights under Fair Labor Standards Act, National Labor Relations Act or any other state or federal laws governing workers' rights. The bills do not condone unfair labor practices and do not limit employees' rights to seek all of the traditional remedies for such unlawful practices. The bills simply remove union status and employee wages and fringe benefits from the administrative rules governing adult foster care homes. All other laws remain in full effect.

Please support these bills and enable the Michigan Department of Human Services and Community Health to maintain their focus on consumer protection and not labor relations. In our view, labor relations should be left to the traditional state and federal agencies that have the experience and statutory authority to act to perform these functions.

We ask that you support these Senate and House Bills. If you wish to have the perspective of an experienced Adult Foster Care facility owner and operator please contact me. Please confirm for us as to when the full House and Senate will take up the bills, we plan to attend and hear the discussion and the respective votes.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,



Ralph & Gloria Mason